

of adult life; his inner attitudes to work and recreation alike—every aspect of his later social responses is brought into relation with his deep phantasy life, on the one hand, and his earlier real experiences, on the other. The psycho-analyst is thus in a specially privileged position for the study of the genesis and history of social relations as such:)

Of recent years psycho-analytic theory has been strengthened, confirmed and further elaborated by the direct application of its technique in a special form to little children from the age of two years and onwards. Melanie Klein has been the pioneer in this work of child analysis, and M. N. Searl has helped to carry the method into new psychological territories, as well as to make many of its features intelligible to non-analysts. My own experience, both in my personal analysis and in working with adult and child patients, has given me a sense of the profound illumination which psycho-analytic theory and practice is able to throw upon the outward behaviour of young children. The theory gives us a more solid ground of understanding of the open anxieties and difficulties, as well as of the ordinary interests and activities of the child, than any merely classificatory description or quantitative study has done or could do.

Approached with the ordered knowledge of the unconscious mental life of the child which the psycho-analytic technique has given us, (the incidents of children's sayings and doings recorded here fall into place— as partial indications of deep, unconscious mental processes which link them together into a dynamic and intelligible whole.> They would not, in themselves, completely suffice to establish the truth of psycho-analytic theory ; but, on the one hand, they present problems which require that theory for their solution,

and on the other, they provide additional behaviouristic evidence of its soundness and adequacy.

Whilst I believe that the main structure of my ensuing theoretical argument is in accordance with general analytic theory, I alone am responsible for the detailed interpretations offered of particular incidents. These do not necessarily represent the exact views of my colleagues in the analytic field, although they are certainly in general accordance.

In discussing the data of overt social relations I shall use certain psycho-analytic concepts, the meaning of which